

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

May 1 - 31,

1937

MAY LOAN EXHIBITION: Opening on Wednesday, April 28th and continuing until May 15th, a series of one-man shows by American artists will be installed in the loan galleries. Most of the artists to be represented are from the middle or far west.

UMBERTO ROMANO was born in Italy in 1903 and came to America at the age of nine. He began his study of painting at sixteen and soon won a Tiffany Foundation Fellowship and the Pulitzer Traveling Scholarship. His European study was done primarily in Italy and for a time he was at the American Academy at Rome. He has had a number of one-man shows in many cities of the United States, has won prizes consistently and is represented in several public museums. For the past two years he has been in charge of advanced painting at the Worcester Art Museum School.

JOHN O'SHEA, a native of Ireland, has lived for a long time in the United States and is an American citizen. He has studied in Paris and in New York and for the past fifteen years has lived in California. He has had a number of exhibitions in New York and is represented in the Dublin Gallery, the San Francisco Museum and at Mills College. Widely traveled, he has been to the South Sea Islands and Hawaii and has made a specialty of the American desert and the mountains of the southwest.

His colours have all the brilliancy of Van Gogh and are best seen in "Bananas", painted at Tahiti. His versatility is seen in his portrait of an Indian, his "Magic Mountains" which catch the strange tones of Arizona and in his sea pieces which have the sweep and calm of the Pacific.

JOHN YOUNG-HUNTER has an even more cosmopolitan background. He was born in Scotland, the son of a well-known painter, and grew up in the friendship of such men as Millais, Leighton, Abbey, and Sargent with whom he studied. He has lived in the United States for the past twenty years.

The West first captured his imagination in America, and most of his canvases are an objective presentation of pioneer and Indian life in which he ranks next to Remington in veracity and understanding. His paintings have the sweep and the dash of the Plains, and he is especially successful in rendering horses. His work has received numerous prizes and he is represented in the Tate Gallery of London and in the Luxembourg.

KENNETH ADAMS was born in Topeka and has spent most of his artistic career in Taos where he was a student of Andrew Dasburg. His work has received especial attention in the past few years, in awards and governmental mural commissions. His exhibitions at the Denver Museum have been the recipients of several prizes and in 1935 his "Mexican Landscape" was awarded the Clark Prize and Honorable Mention at the Corcoran Biennial at Washington. He has just completed several murals for the Theatre of the Colorado Springs Art Center.

The exhibition will include drawings, book illustrations, mural designs, and a group of lithographs. There is fine understanding of the country of New Mexico in his landscapes and his "Deserted House" with its familiar adobe and sinuously rhythmic trees is especially successful. "Burro No. 2" shows a fine sense of humour.

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ROBERT SPRAGUE is a young artist who was born in Dayton, Ohio, and who has been living in Taos, where he studied with Guy Wiggins and Bistran. He has been experimenting in mediums and has been very successful with a type of Conti crayon. A group of his drawings of New Mexico landscapes in this new medium will be shown. These drawings have just had a special exhibition at the Dayton Art Museum.

INTERNATIONAL WATER COLOUR EXHIBITION: Beginning Sunday, May 16th and continuing until the middle of June, the loan galleries will be installed with a selection from the 16th International Water Colour Exhibition. Assembled by the Chicago Art Institute, this exhibition is the most important yearly event in that medium and has already been shown twice at the Gallery. This year it is one of the finest, and although the United States has entered two-thirds of the exhibitions, every country except China is represented. The jury of selection this year was Rainey Bennet, the German artist George Grosz, and the American water colourist Charles Burchfield.

The first prize was won by Peter Hurd, whom it will be recalled was represented by a fine series of drawings at the Gallery several years ago, and the second award went to an Hungarian, Aba-Novak. Buliet of the Chicago Daily News, found that "the German expressionists outrank in interest anything else in the show". In this praise he included the work of Schmidt-Rottluff whose water colours were exhibited here recently.

Water colour is a most fascinating medium and is steadily growing in popularity in America. With such superb local artists as Charles Burchfield and Zorach, it is becoming a favorite field of collecting and the exhibition will be of great interest.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: For the month of May, the Masterpiece will be a Chinese painting, "Portrait of a Lady". It dates from the late Ming Period, that is, the 17th century, and depicts one of the Palace Beauties seated on a couch. "Beautiful Women" was one of the most popular subjects in the Ming period and vied with landscapes and flower paintings. The slight shading used on the face and hands show a definite European influence, perhaps that of the Jesuits who went to China in such numbers.

No title is given for the lady, but the sword on the couch and her outer garment would suggest that it might be the famous Mu Lan who in the 7th century took the place of her ill father at the head of his troops and for years led them in disguise, thus saving his honour and becoming herself an example of filial piety. There is a delicate charm, a true feminine aristocracy which seems more convincing than the artificial court portraits of Europe of the 18th century.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: On Wednesday Evening, May 5th at 8 p.m., Miss Jackson of the Staff will lecture on the fascinating subject of "Glass". Beginning with the first examples of the classical period, she will trace its history through Europe and America to the present day, including the fine modern work of Lalique, Orrefors, and the several American factories. The lecture will be illustrated by examples from all the periods.

May 12th, the Director will continue his series on the history of American Furniture and will discuss the Hepplewhite and Sheraton styles in this country. The Gallery is particularly fortunate in including fine examples from these periods and these will be used as illustrations.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, America produced two fine cabinet makers, Samuel McIntyre and Duncan Phyfe. Their names are associated with some of the best furniture produced in this country and again the Gallery owns outstanding examples of their work. These two men and other American cabinetmakers will be discussed by the Director on Wednesday Evening, May 19th.

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The final Wednesday Evening lecture for this season will be given on May 26th, when Miss Jackson will discuss 19th century styles with particular attention to Biedermeier. This very charming style which was developed in Germany and grew out of the Empire, is one of the most attractive of furniture forms and unfortunately is too little known in America. It adapts itself particularly well to our present day needs and its use is growing in popularity.

FRIENDS OF ART: The final class for this season of the Friends of Art will be held on Wednesday morning, May 12th at 11 A.M. in the Library. At that time, the Director will discuss the contemporary American artists in the loan exhibition. The work of Romano and Adams will be of particular interest, as these two young artists have been winning a number of prizes and have both received governmental mural commissions.

The Membership Committee is reporting marked success in its campaign for new members and already has over fifty.

STAFF ACTIVITIES: The Director will attend the Convention of the American Association of Museums at New Orleans and will present a paper to the educational section on the newly developed Little Museum of the Gallery. Later he will go to Washington to attend the Convention of the Art Museum Directors Association, where he will be in charge of the discussion on the lending of works of art.

The Superintendent, Mr. MacLean, will also attend the Convention in New Orleans and will present a paper on the new air-cooling system now being installed in the Gallery, the first in any important American museum.

On May 20th the Director will go to Denver to act on the Jury of their annual painting exhibition.

Mr. Sickman, Curator of Oriental Art, lectured before the Friends of Oriental Art of Chicago on April 27th. His subject was "Chinese Wall Paintings".

VISITORS: Mr. Charles Sawyer, Curator of the Addison Gallery of American Art at Andover, Massachusetts, with Mrs. Sawyer, spent several days at the Gallery recently. He was most enthusiastic about the start that has been made here in the American field, both in early and contemporary periods.

Mr. Charles Fabens Kelley, Director of the Art School, and Oriental Curator of the Chicago Art Institute, visited the Gallery for two days. He was accompanied by Mr. Russell Tyson, Trustee and Chairman of the Oriental Committee. The visitors were especially interested in the Gallery's collection of Far Eastern Art and spent most of their time in the Chinese, Japanese, and Persian galleries. Mr. Tyson is himself a well known collector of Chinese art and expressed great admiration of the early Chinese pottery. Both gentlemen were impressed by the features of installation and commented on the galleries as not being crowded with objects, with the result that each piece shows to proper advantage. Mr. Kelley praised especially the high quality of the Persian pottery, and was so impressed by the architecture of the Japanese gallery that he hopes to install a similar room in the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mr. Vitale Bloch and Mr. Herbert Bier of London also visited here recently. Mr. Bloch, who is a well known art critic and author, made the trip to Kansas City especially to see the Gallery collection and was most complimentary in his comments. Among the paintings he mentioned particularly the Rembrandt and Titian portraits. The former he believes to be, with the Mellon portrait, the finest in America and the latter quite definitely the most important by that artist. He spoke also of the great importance of the Veronese and confirmed what has been said several times about the Claude Lorrain "Landscape with a Piping Shepherd", namely, it represents the best work of the artist. It is a painting which he has known for many years and was pleased to learn of its whereabouts.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Saturday, April 24th, marks the close of the winter session of gallery classes. Two performances of the Persian play "Bahrum Gur" will be presented by the members of the Marionette Class, under the direction of Miss Groesbeck and Mr. Manning, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Parents and friends of the gallery are cordially invited to attend either of these performances.

SUMMER CLASSES: Registration for the summer classes for children from seven to eighteen years of age will open on Tuesday, the eighth of June. Classes in drawing, crafts, games, marionettes, and clay modeling will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from June 17th to July 31st, inclusive. Fee for the twenty lessons will be \$1.00 and enrollment is limited to 200 children.

THE GAME TRAY: Although formal classes at the Gallery will be over this week, there will still be things for boys and girls to do on Saturdays. A tray with a variety of games based on the gallery collection may be found near the entrance - and the young visitor may "hunt and colour", follow clues in a treasure hunt, or take his choice of a number of different question games.

"Drawing for fun" will be continued through April and May and any child who so desires may come to the auditorium at two o'clock any Saturday afternoon to join the interested group who are making this activity a Saturday habit.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS: The Gallery is fortunate this month in being able to present a concert for the pleasure of its visitors on each of the first three Sundays of May. A list of these will be found in the calendar for the month.

A different type of Sunday afternoon program will be presented in the Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. on May 23rd, when the Advanced Marionette Class will offer an original production "The Romance of Sarah Cruttenden". This play, which is based on the life of the very lovely lady portrayed in the painting by Francis Cotes, was written and produced by the members of the class under the direction of Miss Lindsay Hughes.

CALENDAR

Wed., April 28 - Opening of Loan Exhibition of American Contemporary Painting.

Sun., May 2 - 3:30 - Concert - Chorus and String Ensemble under direction of Mrs. Mariamne Clarke

Wed., May 5 - 8:00 - Lecture - "Glass" - Miss Jackson

Sun., May 9 - 3:30 - Concert - The Madrigal Club under direction of Mr. George Harold Miller.

Wed., May 12 - 11:00 - Friends of Art Study Class - in Library

Wed., May 12 - 8:00 - Lecture - American Furniture of Hepplewhite and Sheraton Styles - Mr. Gardner

Sun., May 16 - 3:30 - Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota

Sun., May 16 - Opening International Water Colour Exhibition

Wed., May 19 - 8:00 - Lecture - American Furniture - Duncan Phyfe and Samuel McIntire - Mr. Gardner

Sun., May 23 - 3:30 - Marionette Play by Advanced Marionette Class.

Wed., May 26 - 8:00 - Lecture - 19th century Furniture - Biedemeier and Later" - Miss Jackson

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